



DATE: July 11, 2024
TO: Programs & Administration Committee/Recycling Board
FROM: Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager
SUBJECT: Reuse and Repair Circular Economy Overview

SUMMARY

A healthy circular economy minimizes waste and maximizes the efficiency of materials and resources by keeping them in circulation through upstream waste prevention, redesign, reuse, repair, and repurposing. StopWaste helps shape our local reuse and repair economy in Alameda County and the region through a number of ways, including grant support to upstream organizations and businesses to advance infrastructure, policy advocacy and leadership, and convening stakeholders to strengthen partnerships within the reuse and repair industry. At the July 11 meeting, staff will present an overview of the reuse and repair landscape and provide an update on new laws to support the effort and share stories from our reuse and repair partner network.

DISCUSSION

StopWaste formed the Bay Area Reuse and Repair Network five years ago to develop a pathway for businesses and nonprofits involved in reuse, repair, and redistribution to connect, share resources and ideas, create partnerships, and foster the expansion of the industry and strengthen the upstream movement. StopWaste convenes the network quarterly, which is currently made up of over 75 diverse organizations working to strengthen the circular economy in our region.

StopWaste grant recipients and network members are involved in projects and programs that both help reduce waste as well as improve the health and resilience of the communities where they live and work. Recently passed state legislation such as the California's landmark Right to Repair law and extended producer responsibility laws like SB 54, have the potential to help drive the circular economy infrastructure and systems needed to spur a thriving reuse and repair landscape.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.